



US Army Corps
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Information Paper

Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project Winnebago Bend, IA



View of the backwater area created in the restored side channel at the Winnebago Bend site

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Location

8 miles west of Slone in Woodbury County, Iowa

Description

The Winnebago Bend site is located on 1,300 acres of land owned by the Corps of Engineers. The area is adjacent to the left descending bank of the Missouri River at river miles 713 to 708.

An old side channel that existed at Winnebago Bend was closed in conjunction with the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project. The main project element for the mitigation at this site was reconnecting the side channel to the river. This has created a mitigation site that includes diverse shallow water and terrestrial flood plain habitats.

Habitat development at the site included construction of controlled openings at the inlet and

outlet of the side channel. During periods of high flow, the Missouri River flows naturally through the side channel. During lower river stages, water in the side channel is supplied by a constructed pump system at the inlet. The pump was necessary due to the lower river level in relation to the bank. Water is pumped in as needed and the outflow is regulated to maintain the water surface elevation. Water can also back flood into the area.

Current Status

Restoration of this area was completed in 2001. The mitigation features have been turned over to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for its operation and management. The mitigation site is open to the public for a variety of outdoor activities including fishing, bird watching, hiking, and hunting when in season. No motor vehicles are allowed on the site, but public foot access is available.



Aerial view of the restored side channel and terrestrial habitats, Winnebago Bend mitigation site